

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 1 of 1878.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th January 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
1	"Bhārat Shramjibī"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	Ashwin & Kārtika, 1284, B. S.
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
	<i>Bi-monthly.</i>			
5	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ...	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
6	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
7	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāligunj, Calcutta ..	.....	26th December 1877.
8	"Bishwa Suhrid"	Mymensingh ..	450	
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Do. ...	658	27th ditto.
10	"Bhārat Sangskārak"	Calcutta ...	.....	24th ditto.
11	"Bengal Advertiser"	Do. ...	.....
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	30th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	28th ditto.
14	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	28th ditto.
15	"Pratikār"	Do. ...	235	
16	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	29th ditto.
17	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Calcutta ...	.....
18	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Do. ...	5,500	
19	"Sādhāranī"	Chinsurah ...	516	23rd & 30th December
20	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca ...	300	29th December.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI—(Continued).				
<i>Weekly—(Continued).</i>				
21	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhowanipore ...	700	31st December 1877.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	.....	24th ditto.
23	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....	26th ditto.
24	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore	250	20th and 27th December.
25	"Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan ...	165	
26	"Banga Mittra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
27	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Do. ...	550	7th to 20th December.
28	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Do. ...	.....	22nd December 1877 to 3rd January 1878.
29	"Samáchar Chandriká"	Do. ...	625	26th December 1877 to 4th January 1878.
30	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Do. ...	.....
31	"Arya Mihir"	Do. ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
32	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Do. ...	2,217	27th December 1877.
33	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	30th ditto.
34	"Moorshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore ...	.....	28th ditto.
35	"Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
36	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	29th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
37	"Akhabár-ul-Akhiár"	Mozufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna...	509	2nd January 1878.
PERSIAN.				
39	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta ...	250	28th December 1877.

POLITICAL.

SADHARANI,
December 23rd, 1877.

The fall of Plevna.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 23rd December, headed the "Fall of Plevna." The dying agonies of Turkey have caused great rejoicings throughout Christendom; the all-absorbing topic from one end to the other being the partition of that kingdom. Russia and its ally Germany are thinking of the spoils; while England and other powers have now discovered their error in having so long remained silent spectators of the tragedy. Christian Europe may well afford to indulge in such rejoicings, since it has never known what it is to fall, or at least to fall after a rise; and the wheel of fortune has ever carried it forward in the path of progress. Europe may well fearlessly swim in human blood, and play with human skulls as boldly as a child with a ball. To deprive others of their property by force or fraud seems to constitute her sole endeavour; while she greatly delights in accomplishing the ruin of a declining race. She has yet to learn the lessons of sympathy for the afflicted, and to extend a strong helping hand to the weak. She still seems to believe in her rights to rivet the chains of slavery on the blacks, and extinguish paganism from off the face of the earth. This is conduct worthy of children, and, as such, suits Europe; but natives of India have no reason to make the occasion one of rejoicing. We should certainly regard as a curiosity the man who, mad with delight, would desire the good of Russia, and evil to the Turkish cause. It behoves us sincerely to pray to God for the success of Turkey; and we believe that every native of India, who takes an intelligent interest in the past, does so already. Russia is the cause of the present war. We say this, not because she was the aggressor, nor because a long subjection to Mahomedan rule in the past has endeared us to the race; nor do we sympathize with Turkey because we are Asiatics, and she is an Asiatic power. The cause of our sympathy lies deep. Whatever might be said against them, the Mahomedans possess all the signs of an active national existence, and can appeal to it as a fact. This race, of which Turkey is now the head, once did much good in the world. Its fall is inseparably bound up with the downfall of the Turkish Empire. As Hindus, we cannot bear to look upon this sad spectacle. Hence it is that we have been so deeply moved by the fall of Plevna. We Hindus have borne, and do still bear, the hardships and misery which follow the downfall of the prestige of a nation. In every bone, vein, and pore of our bodies, this sense of national degradation works as a slow consuming fire. God forbid that even our deadliest enemy should suffer as we do. We are not so foolish as to imagine that the English, French, Russian, or the German will ever deliver us from the burden of our sorrows; and it is precisely because we feel this that we have no faith in such platitudes as that Turkey will be better governed under Russia; that she will work the deliverance of the Christian subjects towards whom Turkey had so long played the very devil; or that that kingdom which, under the Turks, had been like hell, would now, under the magic spell of the Russian name, be converted into heaven. Unhappily, in Turkey, as it has been elsewhere, the evil effects of foreign domination will appear markedly, if ever it becomes subject to the Russians; while the circumstance will pave the way for the perpetration of another gigantic evil in Asia. The fall of Turkey will seriously endanger the balance of power in the world. What may befall Asia, fifty years after this event, would be really fearful to contemplate; the very thought might send a thrill of terror through the heart.

SARACHAR,
December 24th, 1877.

2. The *Sachar*, of the 24th December, thus concludes an editorial headed "England without an Ally," in which is reviewed her political situation in Europe.

The position of England.

The European powers seem to be unwilling to offer their mediation on behalf of Turkey; and it is well known that Russia will exact very hard terms from her enemy. What she will do next will doubtless be to humiliate England. As with individuals, so it is with nations, in times of danger reason always fails them; and English politicians have been no exception to this rule. England will lose her prestige in Asia, should she now refuse to fight on behalf of Turkey. The contrast must be striking, indeed, between the present isolated position of England, when she is torn with factions, and left without a single ally; and that she held when, after the battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington received at Guild Hall the congratulations of the assembled European potentates. England has no efficient army. Like her, Carthage, too, possessed immense wealth; but that could not save the great commercial city of ancient days from a complete downfall.

**AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
December 27th, 1877.

3. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 27th December, contains an article, headed "A Law of Nature," from which we make the following extracts: "Whether

Decline of British prestige.

there has really been any deterioration in the power of the British nation, they themselves and other European nations can best tell. Asiatics, however, especially the natives of India, hold the British name in greater reverence than they did a hundred years since; and this, too, is the case with the once proud native princes, who are now eager to conciliate the British Government. But the English represent their own case in different colours, and speak of the decline of their military power, and the loss of their prestige as a nation. There is, therefore, great reason to believe in the truth of this statement. The true cause of the deterioration must, however, be sought elsewhere than in the History of England. It is to be found in the conquest and occupation of India. Her conquest by the Hindus and Mahomedans successively was the signal for their deterioration; and if there has been really any diminution in the prowess of the British nation, India alone is responsible for it. The present weakness of England is but an inevitable consequence of the narrow and indiscreet policy she has pursued in this country. It is a law of nature that action and re-action affect one another; and in a contest between a giant and a dwarf, even the giant has to lose a portion of his strength. Nor can the races of India, such for instance as the Marhattas, Sikhs, Pindaris, Jats, and others, whom England has by force or stratagem brought under its subjection, be regarded as dwarfs. Government has, however, humiliated and weakened these sturdy races, who might have otherwise served as bulwarks of strength against the Afghans and the Russians; and, as a consequence, has been under the necessity of humouring the Ameer by offering him bribes."

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 27th, 1877.

4. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 27th December, has a long editorial on the fall of Plevna, in which the editor dwells upon the self-seeking policy of the

The fall of Plevna.

European powers and their eagerness to partition Turkey among themselves. His observations agree with those noticed in paragraph 1.

JAM JAHAN NUMA,
December 28th, 1877.

5. In an article headed the "Dishonesty of the Sovereigns of Europe," the *Jam-Jahan-Numa* gives an extract from

The partition of Turkey.

the Agra educational paper, purporting to be a proposal for the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire and the allotment of

various portions to the different powers. The editor of this paper expresses the greatest abhorrence at such unreliable intelligence having found a place in the columns of the Agra journal; and goes on to say that the end of the world is yet far off, so that Russia cannot now get possession of Constantinople; for, verily, a little before that awful day, it is written, Turkey will be defeated, but will shortly after come out victorious.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

6. The *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 20th December, dwells on the advantages of the system under which public officers are occasionally transferred from one

Transfer of public officers.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
December 20th, 1877.

station to another. This, however, does not work beneficially in the case of those in the Postal and Educational Departments; whose continuance in, rather than transfer from, a particular locality generally becomes desirable, from the circumstance that thus only are they enabled to acquire a valuable local experience. It is otherwise with judicial, executive, and ministerial officers, or those employed in the police. To secure an impartial administration of justice, and, so far as the last are concerned, to save the people from oppressive exactions, it is necessary that they should be subjected to frequent transfers. The attention of Government is therefore directed to the non-observance of this salutary practice in certain cases, owing to the predominance of interest or carelessness.

7. The *Sádháraní*, of the 23rd December, thus comments on the new Stamp Bill:—While it is barely possible to live

The Stamp Bill.

SADHARANI,
December 23rd, 1877.

on with shattered health, now when wails of disease are constantly rising from all sides, Government has opportunely (?) aimed a heavy blow at the people. It was but the other day, that the difficulties of debtors were increased by the addition of certain provisions to the Civil Procedure Code; and when the people with one voice remonstrated against the measure, on the ground that the greater the pressure upon the mahajun, the more embarrassed the borrower would be, the protest was unheeded; and thus Government, in its anxiety to benefit them, but injured them the more. Then, again, in these hard times, a new Stamp Bill has been introduced to suck them dry. In submitting the Bill for the consideration of the Select Committee, Mr. Cockerell is reported to have said, that although it had been before the public for about two months, and although certain sections only were objected to, there was not any general objection made to its main principles. Now we want to ask what are these principles? If the chief aim of the Bill be to obtain an increase of revenue, then what is the good of our entering a protest in this direction? Everybody knows the common saying of our countrymen, that a goldsmith is sure to abstract some portion of the metal, even if it were his own mother's ornament he was asked to manufacture. Similarly, with respect to the British Government, it is our belief that whether it be a Governor-General or a Lieutenant-Governor that is in office, he must, as a matter of course, seek to increase the revenue, and give heed to no protests. This is especially the case with a Government which is accustomed to sell justice, and levy a commission on loan transactions. It is almost idle to expect that any consideration will deter it from seeking to gratify its greed for revenue. But the matter would certainly be less open to objection if the wealthy alone were made to pay a tax for this purpose. The different ways in which the State is draining the resources of the people do not seem to have left any power

in them to bear further taxation. The much-talked-of zemindars also are on the eve of insolvency; and their days of affluence are past. Still, there would be little room for cavil if the well-to-do only were required to pay. Government, however, will do no such thing; it will not impose a tax on large incomes for fear of the Europeans and other influential men. And thus it is that an enhancement of the stamp duties is proposed. Agriculturists, who are as a class poor, and are in consequence more than others obliged to have recourse to loans, will suffer exceedingly from the proposed measure. By constantly enacting new laws and increasing the number of pleaders, Government is fostering the spirit of litigation among the people; and, what is worse, not unfrequently charges them with a proneness for this vice for which it is itself mainly responsible. The increase of stamp duty, proposed in the case of arbitration suits, will be productive of considerable injury; while it will show conclusively that Government is opposed to the beneficial system of trial by arbitration. The editor, in conclusion, exhorts the native public to enter a vigorous protest against this Bill.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
December 24th, 1877.

8. Notwithstanding the well-known boast of Government, says the *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 24th December, that no other rule can stand any comparison

The extravagance of Government. with it, in maintaining a just equilibrium between income and expenditure, it is, in practice, notoriously extravagant. Nothing has hitherto been of any avail in checking this disposition in our rulers; nor will any good accrue in this direction until the English public take an interest in the matter. Even the Parliamentary Commission on Indian Finance proved a failure. Owing to a want of public funds, fresh taxation is shortly to be resorted to; while reductions of expenditure have been effected in several important branches of the administration only, it would seem, to swell the outlay on unimportant works. The editor then mentions three cases to prove his statements. These are (1) Colonel Hyde's experiment to melt silver by means of gas, which has cost the exchequer the large sum of ten lakhs of rupees, and after all proved a failure; (2) the proposal to create a post of Inspector-General of the Medical Department for Bengal on a monthly salary of Rs. 3,000—an office for which there is no need; and (3) the creation of a Frontier Commissionership, most probably under Sir Lewis Pelly, which will prove a heavy burden on the exchequer, and is altogether unnecessary.

SAHACHAR,
December 24th, 1877.

9. The *Sahachar*, of the 24th December, protests strongly against an Income Tax, which, he believes, the authorities are about to impose; and wonders at

An Income Tax. the persistency with which Sir John Strachey and others of his school have clung to it as a *panacea* for all evil, in spite of the clear and unmistakeable opinion of both Europeans and natives regarding its unfitness for this country. Owing to taxes, the country is seething with discontent; and it would be the height of indiscretion to foster it by the introduction of this odious impost. Let Government, instead, increase the rates of the salt duty, which will not be felt as oppressive.

SAHACHAR.

10. The same paper asks Government to adopt efficient measures for the prevention of famines in India. For this purpose, the enormous water-supply in the rivers should be utilized by means of an extensive system of irrigation-canals. Agriculture would thus be relieved of its dependence on a certain amount of seasonable rainfall.

The Prevention of Famines.

11. The same paper hopes that Mr. Whitley Stokes will yet withdraw the Master and Servants' Bill, which is altogether a piece of unnecessary legislation. The natives, as a body, and a portion of the European community, are opposed to it; and it seems to find favour with such only of the latter as are in the habit of beating their khansámás, should they venture to ask for the payment of their bills. Besides, the wording of the Bill is not clear. The explanation does not help us in understanding what is meant by a "domestic servant." The measure, if passed into law, will be productive of injurious consequences. There is a wonderful social unity noticeable among the lower orders of our countrymen. Is Mr. Stokes aware that there is a kind of association in Calcutta, the members of which can, in one day, induce all the domestic servants to throw up their appointments?

SAHACHAR,
December 24th, 1877.

The Masters and Servants' Bill.

12. In noticing the provisions of the new Stamp Bill, the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 27th December, makes the same remarks as those noticed in paragraph 1 from the *Sádháraní*.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 27th, 1877.

13. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 29th December, is strongly of opinion that the expenditure incurred on account of the famine can be well met by making reductions in the civil and military charges. It would be exceedingly unfair in the rulers to impose a new tax on the people.

HINDU HITAISHINI,
December 29th, 1877.

14. The same paper protests against the new Stamp Bill, and asks the native public to memorialize Government against its introduction.

HINDU HITAISHINI.

15. In reviewing the year just passed, the *Behár Bandhu* can recollect nothing which occurred in 1877 as tending to the benefit of the people, but much that has been detrimental to the country; among which may be enumerated the cyclone in Bengal, the Madras and Bombay famines, and the Russo-Turkish war. The Imperial Darbár of Lord Lytton, on which *lakhs* were spent, and which was intended to please all, has neither done so, nor produced any results; and how could any one be pleased when the above calamities intervened? The present war, though carried on out of Hindustan, has affected her in no small degree; for it has afforded the Hindus and Mussulmans an opportunity of being reconciled to each other, and created a sympathy with the Turks. *Behár* has fared badly, and the hope entertained of a change in the condition of the Hindu inhabitants of that province has not been realized; all the projected attempts for the improvement of the people have vanished as a dream. What must the Lieutenant-Governor have thought of the Hindus during the Sonapore Darbár? For at other such gatherings an address was presented, but the Hindus were not forthcoming this year. The existence or non-existence of the Hindus must be, therefore, a matter of unconcern to His Honor.

BEHAR BANDHU,
January 2nd, 1878.

EDUCATION.

16. The *Bhárat Sangskarak*, of the 24th December, directs the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the unsatisfactory character of the education imparted in the Bethune Girls' School in Calcutta. Scarcely anything has been hitherto done to promote the efficiency of the education received by the advanced girls; and now, it is said, the class is to be abolished next year. Really nobody seems to be responsible for the work done in this school.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
December 24th, 1877.

The Bethune Girls' School.

LOCAL.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
December 26th, 1877.

17. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 26th December, writing from Bogra, laments the present narrow and shrunken condition of the Karatoyá river, and adverts to the injury to the local trade that has resulted. Government is asked to set free the silted-up channel of this river.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 5th January 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.